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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/636,044	08/07/2003	Patrick Chiu	FXPL-1060US0	9973
23910	7590	07/17/2007	EXAMINER	
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			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2179	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			07/17/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/636,044

Applicant(s)

CHIU ET AL.

Examiner

Thuy Osberg

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 May 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to amendment filed 06/04/2007 to the original application filed 08/07/2003. **This action is made Final.**
 - A. Claims 1-20 are pending in the application.
 - B. Claims 1, 5, 13 and 20 were amended.

Claim Objection

2. **Claims 14-20 are objected to because of the following informalities:**

As to claims 14-19 are objected to for lacking of antecedent basis, the phrase "The computer program product of claim 13" in claim 14-19 but there is no "The computer program product" mentioned in claim 13. The examiner assumes the phrase "A computer readable medium with instructions" for claim 14-19 for continuation of this examination.

As such, claim 20 is ejected as incorporating the deficiencies of a claim upon which it depends. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. **The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:**

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Humphrey et al. (US Pub 2004/0003039) in view of Rekimoto (US Patent 6,470,341), hereinafter "Humphrey".

For the convenience of the Applicant, the Examiner has pointed out particular references contained in the prior arts of record in the body of this action. Although the specified citations are representation of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. The Applicant should consider the entire reference(s) as applicable as to the limitations of the claims.

As to claim 1 (Current Amended), Humphrey teaches a system for providing content in a modular presentation system (fig. 5; par [0056]), comprising:
a plurality of displays (fig. 5, labels 502, 504A – 504F; fig. 1, label 191; par [0032], lines 27-28; par [0057]), wherein each display neighbors at least one other display and all the displays communicate within a peer-to-peer system (Abstract; par [0024], lines 1-6; par [0036]), each of the plurality of displays associated with:
an input device configured to receive a gesture input (fig. 1, labels 160, 161, 162; par [0032], lines 18-25; par [0028], lines 6-11);

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and a processor (par [0028], lines 6-11), each processor associated with an I/O port and configured to interpret the gesture received by the associated input device (fig. 1, labels 160, 195; par [0032], lines 23-33), each display processor configured with directional information for at least one neighboring display (fig. 5, label 510; fig. 7, labels 708, 710; par [0063]; par [0067], lines 23-27), each I/O port configured to receive and transmit messages to a neighboring display (fig. 1, labels 171, 173; par [0033]; par [0034], lines 1-9), wherein each processor is configured to propagate content to a neighboring display (fig. 7, label 708; par [0067], lines 21-23).

Humphrey does not teach at least a first display is in visual proximity to a second display.

However, Rekimoto teaches at least a first display is in visual proximity to a second display (fig. 16, labels 25D, 26; col. 19, lines 58-63; col. 11, lines 63-67; col. 12, lines 1-2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Humphrey by having at least a first display is in visual proximity to a second display as taught by Rekimoto in order to provide the close proximity of users is assumed and enhances social interaction and the technique to transfer the information/files/objects between different computers with natural and simple operations (Rekimoto: col. 1, lines 22-38).

As to claim 2, Humphrey further teaches each of the plurality of displays is configured to:

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receive new content identification information (par [0024], lines 16-19, that by sharing the content, which gives the ability to receive, sending and transmitting; par [0064], lines 1-8);

and transmit old content identification information (par [0024], lines 10-20, that the initial connection will transmit previous information to obtain a common index of content); and present content associated with the new content identification information (par [0013]; par [0024], lines 19-23); par [0036]).

As to claim 3, Humphrey further teaches the new content identification information is received from a processor associated with a neighboring display in the reverse propagation direction (par [0013], par [0024], lines 16-20; par [0028], lines 6-17, that the systems are linked in a communications network and/or peer group which propagates in a forward/reverse directions based on the association with the adjoining client), the old content identification information is transmitted to a processor associated with a neighboring display in the forward propagation direction (par [0013], par [0024], lines 16-20; par [0028], lines 6-17), the forward propagation direction derived from the gesture input (fig. 7, labels 708, 710; par [0067], lines 21-27).

As to claim 4, Humphrey further teaches the new content identification information includes: retrieving new content identification information from a memory stack (par [0024], lines 16-20, [0032], lines 9-14, that the shared content index, URL's and updates are stored on a memory storage device, which the updated information is available and the outdated information is removed or archived).

As to claim 5 (Current Amended), Humphrey teaches a method of providing content in a modular presentation system (fig. 5; par [0056]) having a plurality of displays (fig. 5, labels 502, 504A – 504F; fig. 1, label 191; par [0032], lines 27-28; par [0057]), each display associated with a processor (par [0028], lines 6-11), input device (fig. 1, labels 160, 161, 162; par [0032], lines 18-25; par [0028], lines 6-11), and an I/O port (fig. 1, labels 160, 195; par [0032], lines 23-33), the method comprising:

receiving gesture input by an input device associated with a first of the plurality of displays (fig. 1, labels 160, 161, 162; par [0032], lines 18-25; par [0028], lines 6-11), the first display presenting a first content, the first content associated with a first content identification information (par [0013]; par [0024], lines 19-23); par [0036]);

interpreting the gesture input (fig. 1, labels 160, 195; par [0032], lines 23-33) by the processor associated with the first display (fig. 5, label 510; fig. 7, labels 708, 710; par [0063]; par [0067], lines 23-27);

retrieving a second content identification information (par [0024], lines 16-19, that by sharing the content, which gives the ability to receive, sending and transmitting; par [0064], lines 1-8);

sending the first content identification information to a neighboring display (par [0024], lines 10-20, that the initial connection will transmit previous information to obtain a common index of content);

and presenting a second content at the first display, the second content associated with the second content identification information (par [0013]; par [0024], lines 19-23); par [0036]).

Humphrey does not teach at least a first display is in visual proximity to a second display.

However, Rekimoto teaches at least a first display is in visual proximity to a second display (fig. 16, labels 25D, 26; col. 19, lines 58-63; col. 11, lines 63-67; col. 12, lines 1-2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Humphrey by having at least a first display is in visual proximity to a second display as taught by Rekimoto in order to provide the close proximity of users is assumed and enhances social interaction and the technique to transfer the information/files/objects between different computers with natural and simple operations (Rekimoto: col. 1, lines 22-38).

As to claim 8, Humphrey further teaches interpreting the gesture includes: determining the direction of the gesture (par [0024], lines 10-20, that the gesture includes updating, which is controlled by the user choosing a direction via a URL).

As to claim 9, Humphrey further teaches retrieving second content identification information includes: retrieving a second URL from a memory associated with the display (par [0024], lines 19-23, that the URL's are stored in memory).

As to claim 10, Humphrey further teaches sending first content identification information to a neighboring display includes: sending a first URL to the neighboring display (par [0024], lines 19-23, that the content discovery service provides an initial URL).

As to claim 11, Humphrey further teaches:

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propagating content, the direction of propagation derived from the gesture input (par [0024], lines 16-19; par [0028], lines 6-17), wherein propagating content includes: receiving the first content identification information by a second processor associated with a second display (par [0024], lines 16-19, that by sharing the content, which gives the ability to receive, send and transmit; par [0064], lines 1-8); and updating the second display to present content associated with the first content identification information (par [0013]; par [0024]).

As to claim 12, Humphrey further teaches propagating content includes: for each display that exists along the direction of propagation, wherein each display includes a current content identification information (par [0013]): receiving a received content identification information from a neighboring display in a direction reverse to the direction of propagation (par [0067]; sending the current content identification information to a neighboring display in the direction of propagation (par [0013]; par [0067]); and updating the display with the received content identification information (par [0013], lines 1-3; par [0024], lines 10-20; par [0032], lines 27-28).

As to claim 13 (Current Amended), Humphrey further teaches a computer readable medium with instruction for execution by a computer (fig 1, labels 144-146; par [0028], lines 1-11) for providing content in a modular presentation system (fig. 5; par [0056]) having a plurality of displays (fig. 5, labels 502, 504A – 504F; fig. 1, label 191; par [0032], lines 27-28; par [0057]), each display associated with a processor (par [0028], lines 6-11), input device (fig. 1, labels 160, 161, 162; par [0032], lines 18-25; par

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[0028], lines 6-11), and an I/O port (fig. 1, labels 160, 195; par [0032], lines 23-33), comprising:

computer code (par [0028], lines 1-11) for receiving gesture input by an input device associated with a first of the plurality of displays (fig. 1, labels 160, 161, 162; par [0032], lines 18-25), the first display presenting a first content, the first content associated with a first content identification information (par [0013]; par [0024], lines 19-23; par [0028]; par [0036]);

computer code (par [0028], lines 1-11) for interpreting the gesture input (fig. 1, labels 160, 195; par [0032], lines 23-33) by the processor associated with the first display (fig. 5, label 510; fig. 7, labels 708, 710; par [0063]; par [0067], lines 23-27);

computer code (par [0028], lines 1-11) for retrieving a second content identification information (par [0024], lines 16-19, that by sharing the content, which gives the ability to receive, send and transmit; par [0028]; par [0064], lines 1-8);

computer code (par [0028], lines 1-11) for sending the first content identification information to a neighboring display (par [0013]; (par [0024], lines 10-20, that the initial connection will transmit previous information to obtain a common index of content); and computer code (par [0028], lines 1-11) for presenting a second content at the first display, the second content associated with the second content identification information (par [0013]; par [0024], lines 19-23); par [0036]).

Humphrey does not teach at least a first display is in visual proximity to a second display.

However, Rekimoto teaches at least a first display is in visual proximity to a second display (fig. 16, labels 25D, 26; col. 19, lines 58-63; col. 11, lines 63-67; col. 12, lines 1-2).

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Humphrey by having at least a first display is in visual proximity to a second display as taught by Rekimoto in order to provide the close proximity of users is assumed and enhances social interaction and the technique to transfer the information/files/objects between different computers with natural and simple operations (Rekimoto: col. 1, lines 22-38).

As to claim 16, Humphrey further teaches the computer code for interpreting the gesture includes: computer code for determining the direction of the gesture (par [0024], lines 10-20, that the gesture includes updating, which is controlled by the user choosing a direction via a URL).

As to claim 17, Humphrey further teaches the computer code for retrieving second content identification information includes: computer code for retrieving a second URL from a memory associated with the display (par [0024], lines 19-23, that the URL's are stored in memory).

As to claim 18, Humphrey further teaches the computer code for sending first content identification information to a neighboring display includes: computer code for sending a first URL to the neighboring display (par [0024], lines 19-23, that the content discovery service provides an initial URL).

As to claim 19, Humphrey further teaches:

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computer code for propagating content, the direction of propagation derived from the gesture input (par [0024], lines 16-19; par [0028], lines 1-17), wherein propagating content includes:

computer code for receiving the first content identification information by a second processor associated with a second display (par [0024], lines 16-19, that by sharing the content, which gives the ability to receive, send and transmit; par [0064], lines 1-8); and computer code for updating the second display to present content associated with the first content identification information (par [0013]; par [0024]).

As to claim 20, Humphrey further teaches the computer code for propagating content (fig 1, labels 144-146; par [0028], lines 1-11) includes:

for each display that exists along the direction of propagation (fig. 5, labels 502, 504A – 504F; fig. 1, label 191; par [0032], lines 27-28; par [0057]), wherein each display includes a current content identification information (par [0013]; par [0024]): computer code for receiving a received content identification information from a neighboring display in a direction reverse to the direction of propagation (par [0013]; par [0024]; par [0067]);

computer code for sending the current content identification information to a neighboring display in the direction of propagation (par [0013]; par [0067]);

and computer code for updating the display with the received content identification information (par [0013], lines 1-3; par [0024], lines 10-20; par [0032], lines 27-28).

As to claims 6 and 14, Humphrey does not teach receiving input on a touch screen display.

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However, Rekimoto teaches receiving input on a touch screen display (fig. 8, labels 22D, 24D, p; col. 13, lines 63-67; col. 14, lines 1-20). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Humphrey by receiving input on a touch screen display as taught by Rekimoto in order to provide easy to use input for the user via touch screen (Rekimoto: col. 1, lines 22-38).

As to claims 7 and 15, Humphrey does not teach determining whether the gesture is one of a move or transpose gesture.

However, Rekimoto teaches determining whether the gesture is one of a move or transpose gesture (fig. 8; col. 13, lines 63-67; col. 14, lines 1-20). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Humphrey by determining whether the gesture is one of a move or transpose gesture as taught by Rekimoto in order to provide an enhanced display by interpreting the gesture to provide a display that is user controlled (Rekimoto: col. 1, lines 22-38).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

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§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuy Osberg whose telephone number is 571-270-1258. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:30AM-5:00PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo can be reached on 571-272-4847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business

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Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TTO



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER